

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A device (12) for loading a patient connector (PK) for peritoneal dialysis with a closure plug (1), said device consisting of a housing (3, 7) containing a closure plug (1) and of means (2, 8) for transferring the closure plug (1) out of the device (12) and into a patient connector (PK).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the housing (3, 7) is connectable with the portion of the patient connector (PK) into which the closure plug (1) is to be transferred.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the housing (3, 7) can be connected with the patient connector (PK) by means of a positive connection, especially a screwed, pin-type or keyed joint.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the housing (3, 7) can be connected with the patient connector (PK) by means of a friction-type connection, especially a press-fit or a clamping joint.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein ~~in that~~ the means (8) for transferring the closure plug is engineered as a push-button or turning knob (8) at the opposite end of the housing (7) to where the closure plug (1) exits the same, with an intermediate element being provided if necessary between the push-button or turning knob (8) and the closure plug (1).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means (2) for transferring the closure plug (1) is designed as a holder (2) for the closure plug (1), the retention force exerted by said holder on the closure plug (1) being lower than the retention force exerted on the closure plug (1) in the patient connector (PK).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein prior to transfer, the closure plug (1) is held in a retracted position within the housing (3,7) so as to be protected from contamination.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method for loading a patient connector (PK) for peritoneal dialysis with a closure plug (1), ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a housing (3, 7) containing a closure plug (1) is connected with the portion of a patient connector (PK) into which the closure plug (1) is to be transferred, and that the closure plug (1) is subsequently transferred from the housing (3, 7) to the patient connector (PK).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the housing (3, 7) is connected with the patient connector (PK) by means of a positive connection or a friction-type connection.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~one of claims 7 or 8~~ claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the closure plug (1) is transferred by linear displacement from the housing (3, 7) into the patient connector (PK).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the linear displacement of the closure plug (1) is triggered by actuation of a push-button or turning knob (8).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the closure plug (1) is transferred on account of the retention force exerted by the holder on the closure plug (1) in the housing (3,7) being lower than the holding force exerted on the closure plug (1) in the patient connector (PK).